Reviewer's report

Title: Text-mining applied to autoimmune disease research: The Sjogren's Syndrome Knowledge Base.

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Reviewer: Cor Verweij

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Gorr et al. generate a SS data base based on literature mining. Therefore they have extract releavt data out of over 7,700 abstracts. From these a total of 550 potential relevant proteins and/or genes have been extracted. This information was brought back to 377 functional human genes of potential relevance in SS. Subsequent ontology and pathway level analyses oragnises the genes and proteins into biological information.

The procedures sound and the paper is well written. It is a pity that only 79 entries were visible in the knowledge database (http://sskb.umn.edu) . Moreover, the ontology and pathway level analysis could not be reviewed.

If the available data would be publicly available and contain what is described in the manuscript this would mean a great framework for interpretation and knowledge creation to increase insight in the pathogenesis of SS. The user interface is not easy to interact with.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare no competing interest